

ER 5-1286/A

JAN 26 1954

The Honorable Val Peterson, Administrator
Federal Civil Defense Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Your letter of 21 January in continuation of the discussion on the briefing of the Civil Defense Committee of the Life Insurance Association of America and my letter to you of 22 January on the same subject apparently crossed in the mail.

Subject of course to the necessary security clearances, our part of the briefing has been set up for Thursday, 28 January, at 9:30 a.m. in my conference room. Unfortunately I must attend a meeting of the National Security Council and cannot be present. However, General Cabell, the Deputy Director, will open this briefing. I wish to assure you of our continued support in your very vital work.

Sincerely,

SAC
Allen W. Dulles
Director

STAT

O/DCI/[redacted]:vml (26 Jan 54)

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FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

JAN 21 1954

Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

In further reference to the Civil Defense Committee of the Life Insurance Association of America, which was discussed in my letter of December 29, 1953, I thought it might be helpful to describe a little more fully our conception of the briefing which you might care to arrange for this Committee.

As we have discussed this Committee's assignment for the Life Insurance Association of America, it has become clear that the life insurance officials by and large are either quite confused or have serious doubts as to the reality and nature of the threats that face this country. At the same time, they clearly do not comprehend the scope and nature of the effects of weapons potentially deliverable against us.

I realize fully that much of the information needed by this Committee should be provided by other agencies; notably the Atomic Energy Commission, the Office of Defense Mobilization, and the Department of Defense. Letters similar to my letter of December 29 have gone to those agencies. We are assured informally of their cooperation in handling their respective portions of the briefing planned for this Committee.

From our discussions with the members of the Committee, it appears to us that your Agency could best contribute by giving them an overall evaluation of the threat to this country, inherent in the present and future capability of the Soviet Union to attack the continental United States. This would naturally lead into a somewhat more detailed discussion of the possible scale and nature of such an attack, particularly as regards the characteristics of weapons and means of delivery.

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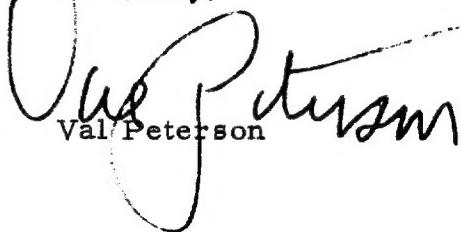
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Honorable Allen W. Dulles

We have tentatively scheduled January 28 and 29 for the briefing of this Committee in Washington, subject to completion of their security clearances. Since the Central Intelligence Agency's part of the program should logically precede the others, I would appreciate it very much if you could arrange this briefing for Thursday morning, January 28. I hope this date will be convenient to you and your staff, as it will permit us to set up a logical and balanced schedule for the Committee.

I know that our respective staffs have already been in contact in this matter, and I feel sure that a valuable program will be worked out. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated, and I know that it will result in the Committee's being able to make a distinct contribution, not only to the progress of civil defense, but to national understanding of the entire defense program.

Sincerely,


Val Peterson

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SGD VAL PETERSON

Val Peterson